

Reduce Reuse and Recycle: How Each of Us Can Make a Difference

Presented by: Junior Troop 63091, Thomaston

www.thomastonct.org

The Girl Scouts in troop 63091 want to do their part to save our Earth by encouraging the citizens of Thomaston to "Reduce, Reuse Recycle"!

Garbage = A Messy and Wasteful Community and Planet

- Did you know that The Environmental Protection Agency reports the United States produces approximately 220 million tons of garbage each year.
- Each American makes about 4 pounds of garbage daily. If the rest of the world produced as much as Americans, there would be about 10 MILLION tons daily, or 4 TRILLION tons yearly.

What can we as individuals do to make a difference as a whole community?



Plastic Water Bottles

Problem

A recent report from MSNBC estimates that 40 million plastic water bottles PER DAY are thrown away

www.msnbc.com

Solution

Reusable water bottles available just about anywhere you shop! You can carry your water, juice or coffee in reusable Earth friendly containers reducing the amount of waste you personally contribute to our planet!

Plastic Shopping Bags

Problem

Plastic shopping bags do not degrade once thrown out. Over time, if in the sun, they break down into granules...BUT scientists worry that these granules will negatively effect our soil and water supplies.

www.thegoodhuman.com

Solution

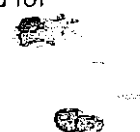
Reuseable bags. Available for about \$0.99 at grocery stores. Not only that but many grocery stores give you a \$0.05 discount for reusing the bags. That is good for the planet and your wallet.

Spoiled Food

Problem

A family of 4 can waste more than \$1940.00 worth aof food a year! This includes roughly 15 gallons of milk, 12 dozens eggs, 160 pounds of chicken and beef, and 240 pounds of fresh produce; according to an article in the March issue of Oprah Magazine.

www.theoprahmag.com



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Solution

Buy what you need, and if you buy in bulk use your freezer to save what you do not use immediately. If it just can't be overcome please think of composting your foods.

www.motnereartnews.com

How to Compost?

Here's how in 10 easy steps!

- 1 **Balancing ingredients** is helpful but not necessary
Rapid compost requires 2 parts brown and 1 part green
Brown = pine needles, leaves, dry materials
Green = grass trimmings & kitchen waste
- 2 Compost can be either **hot or cold**
Hot compost is the fastest producing compost - the materials heat up to come together, a matured compost is best - a couple months old
- 3 **Size:** big or small whatever is right for you!
Materials 3 feet wide and 3 feet high will start heating up within just a few days!
Add more materials and keep it moist and off you go
- 4 **Turning compost** - optional
By keeping the compost well mixed and moist supplies optimum "cooking"
However most compost heaps aerate as the work
- 5 **Smell** - you can gauge the moisture level of your heap by its smell
It should smell earthy not stinky - too much moisture creates that unpleasant order
- 6 **To be seen** - or not up to you
Composting does not have to be an eye-sore.
Find a place close to where you will be using it
Using a green or black enclosure helps with the "cooking" and to have it blend it with its surroundings
- 7 **Weedy plants** - CAN be composted
- 8 **Worm bins** allow you to compost indoors - great for winter composting
Vermicomposting is composting with captive earthworms!
- 9 **Livestock manure** - can also be safely composted
The concern of course is E. coli. To avoid risky composting with animal manures you must be patient and allow the compost material to mature
- 10 **Uses for immature compost**
Compost filled trenches - foods that grow well in these trenches are:
Peas, beans, potatoes & squash

Come save the world with us!!!!